For now our ears been of more brittle
mould,
Than those dull earthen ears that were of
old,
Sith those, like anvils, bore the hammer's
head,
Our glass can never touch unshivered *

ist Ap-il THE BOY POSSESSED AT NOTTINGHAM

The boy Sommers, from whom was cast an evil spirit last autumn, having again fallen into his fits, a commission was of late appointed from the Archbishop of York to search into the truth thereof

Mr Darrell having taken the names of threescore persons who were ready to be deposed touching the extraordinary handling of the boy, seventeen of them were sworn and examined before the commissioners Then Sommers himself was called to be examined, whether he had counterfeited or not He told them that all that he did was counterfeit The high sheriff therefore exhorted him in the Name of God to tell the truth; whereat Sommers was violently cast into one of his fits before them all, wallowing up and down the chamber where they sat in a fearful manner. Pins were thrust deep into his hand and leg to try if he did counterfeit, but he was senseless, and no blood followed At length being recovered as out of sleep, they asted what he had done He said he could not tell Being asied whether he had not been pricked with pins, he said yes , they asked where, and he showed the wrong hand After some farther questions he was conveyed away, and being absent he was worse tormented than before. Tliey brought him back again to know if he would confess who had persuaded him to say he had counterfeited, and as he was coming up a pair of stairs through a gallery, he had cast himself over headlong to have broken his neck, if he had not been

hindered.

When he was the second tune brought before the commissioners he was more terribly handled than before, insomuch that the commissioners and all that were present were fully satisfied that he was corporally possessed and surceased to examine any more witnesses , even Mr Walton, Archdeacon of Derby, being present and a principal enemy to Mr. Darrell, acknowledged that it was the finger of God upon this rare accident

Herewith all that favoured Mr Darrell began to rejoice and to run abroad into the town, telling their f nends with great joy